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Governor JOHNSTONE's *SPEECH*,

on the Question for RE-COMMITTING *the Address, declaring the Colony of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY *in* REBELLION.

MR. SPEAKER,

BEFORE you pronounce this dreadful sentence upon a *meritorious, sober, and industrious* people, I hope the House will indulge me with a few words in discharge of the duty I owe myself, and likewise with a view of transmitting my character fair to posterity, when those *black* scenes shall be examined without prejudice.

The real question before us is, upon the proper measures to be pursued respecting our fellow subjects in America. In order to judge of this we must consider the *real cause* of dispute: I say the substantial difference turns on the *right* of *Taxation*. Most of the advocates on the other side have endeavoured to flur this point, and alledge, "that the claims of the Americans extend far beyond this article, and that the Act of Navigation itself is in danger."--But it is impossible for a judicious mind to read the material papers, and not to see that this is *illusory*. The Congress has expressly told us, "they are willing to acquiesce in those Laws, which secure to us the monopoly of their trade, as necessary in the mutual connection;" and the instructions from Philadelphia, on which the Proceedings of the Congress are chiefly formed, avow *those doctrines* in more full and explicit terms. This method of condemning men by *inference* and *conjecture*, contrary to their repeated declarations, I cannot approve; I shall therefore bend the whole force of my argument to the original cause of quarrel------ TAXATION.

The great and only secret yet found out for preserving the Liberties of mankind, from the encroachments of that power which is necessary for the executive in large kingdoms, is the *power of the purse*. This was the subject of contention in the civil wars of Charles the First: It is this privilege alone which makes the House of Commons respectable: This was the point which HAMPDEN obtained for us! And I leave every one acquainted with the history of those memorable times, to determine in his own mind, "whether we should ever have enjoyed this blessing, if he had tamely paid the Tax, and had not *resisted* it?" From this power we derive the certainty of assembling the Representatives of the People; by this redress of grievances *may precede* supplies; and the security that the exercise will not be abused is derived from hence, that the House cannot impose on others what they are not to feel themselves. By the principles of the Constitution every man should be represented; but the deviation from a rule, too nice for practice, is safely borne, because the interest of every particular Member remains as a pledge, that no individual can be overburthened: When this security is removed, there is no longer any safety for those to whom the fact does not apply. What is the case respecting the Americans? Does any Member feel himself affected by the impositions he shall lay on them? Nay, does not the *contrary principle* prevail? The more he shall *burthen* America, the more he will *relieve* himself.----JUDGE HOBBART says, "If an Act of Parliament was made, constituting a man a Judge in his own Cause, it would be void by the law of nature." Yet such is the precise situation in which we contend we ought to be placed respecting the Americans, and for the denial of which we are ready to condemn our fellow-subjects to all the tortures enacted by the Laws of Treason.

Let us look round, and view the fate of different States that have yielded or preserved the privileges for which the Americans contend. So soon as the *Cortes* lost this power, their slavery was compleat. *Portugal* has now no vestige of this palladium---Here the Tyranny *supreme*! In *France*, where the traces are left, (as in the *Pays d'etat*) their happiness is distinguishable from the misery of other parts. In *Britain* we are yet free, because we retain it. In *Holland*, *Switzerland*, and other States of Europe, they are more or less, so as they preserve it.

What are the circumstances that distinguish and protect the *British* Colonies from those of *other* nations? The Representatives of the people met in *General Assembly*, and the *trial by Jury*. ---If the system of taxation by the Parliament of Great-Britain takes place, what being can be so credulous as to expect the Assemblies of the people will ever meet; and it is confessed that Admiralty Courts disclaiming Trials by Jury, are *necessary* to enforce this species of taxation. Here then are all the essential privileges of an Englishman dependent on this question, and the real interests of the State is no way concerned in the contrary scale, since the prosperity of the Colonies must ever prove the riches and glory of England---Nothing but the *absurd pride*, or *narrow ignorance* of the *present Administration*, can be thrown into it.----When once this system takes place, we shall then feel the tyranny and oppression of Governors, with all their train of dependents, as in the provinces of *Rome*, which are now quoted as an example.

Thus much supposing the Americans *right* in the dispute (as I believe they are); but supposing them *wrong*, I shall now state their excuse, and see what heart can condemn them, and retain any claims to humanity.

The question concerning the *right* to tax the Colonies, though clear to those who are accustomed to think deeply on the principles of free Governments, is difficult to common apprehensions.---MONTESQUIEU has observed, "that in Despotism every thing ought to depend on two or three ideas." As for instance, Is there any thing so fit to solve this dispute, as the *unity* of the British Empire---the *supremacy* of the Legislative Authority of Great-Britain---the *omnipotence* of Parliament? Is there any man so ignorant, after having heard those *sounding* words, as not clearly to comprehend the whole of the controversy? Plodding, thinking creatures, who are accustomed to consider the complicated privileges in a free Government, from whence the harmony of the whole springs, may be puzzled; but men who have never disturbed their repose with such dry considerations, can have no doubt on the matter.---Be that as it may, certain it is, that the discussion of this most important question was debated in this Assembly by the *greatest abilities*, after the *fullest information*, that ever accompanied any political question. The decision was *in favour* of the Americans; the Stamp-Act was *repealed*. I'll admit that "principles of *expediency*" are alledged as the *reason*, in the preamble of the Bill; but the men who boldly *denied*, during this discussion, the power of taxing the Colonies, as constitutionally existing in the Commons of Great-Britain, namely, LORD CHATHAM and LORD CAMDEN, (men of as *extraordinary talents* as ever adorned society) the one was made Prime Minister; the other was created a Peer, and Lord High Chancellor of Great-Britain, the Keeper of the King's Conscience!---What American could have retained any doubt of his cause in the mind of his Majesty, or the nation, after such a decision?---The compromising Act soon followed (for the sake of gratifying a party) violating all the principles of Commerce and Policy in the lump-giving draw-backs here, exacting duties there, committing the power and authority of the nation on subjects which never could produce any effectual revenue, and this in a manner that all men of sense must ever condemn. (11)

When the Americans saw, by this Act of Parliament, that the great question was likely again to return upon them, in the progress of time, through the greed, ignorance, or caprice of Statesmen, they meet the petition in its fly, circuitous, questionable shape; they recurred to their old principles; they revolted against the preamble; they transmitted petitions; and all failing, they entered into non-importation agreements. (12) This produced *Lord Hillsborough's* circular letter, which I will repeat again and again, till a contrary conduct is pursued; for no satisfactory answer can be given about it, while the present doctrines are avowed.---The Americans, thus *fortified* in their opinions concerning the point of Taxation, are unanimous *against* our power, from *Nova-Scotia* to *Georgia*. If there be any doubt on this fact, why not call *Governour Eden*? We are told he lately arrived: It would have been becoming to have produced him. But I call on his relations, friends, or any man, to contradict me in this assertion, "that the Americans are unanimous *against* this power of Taxation, as lodged in the British Parliament." They are resolved to resist, and since you have placed them in a situation where they must either be Rebels or Slaves, the blame must lie with those who have drove them to this dilemma.

In discussing the question of *Resistance*, the gentlemen of the other side have great advantages:---We stand on difficult ground, since from its nature, it never can be defined, or admitted as lawful. The first officer of the Crown has fairly expressed my ideas on this subject. The principle should never be extinguished in any government, much less in a *Free* country; the occasion must ever be referred to the general feelings of mankind. Now, if depriving a trading town of its commerce---if cutting off whole societies from the benefit of the elements which *God* has given them ---if proceeding to deprive them of the fishery, their subsistance---if altering their charter, and annihilating all their rights, without hearing them in defence---If establishing, in its stead, a new form of Government, which leaves all things in confusion---if erecting a system of tyranny in their neighbourhood, and *establishing* (not tolerating) all the abberdities of the *Roman Catholic Religion*. (14) Trial by Jury dismissed. Habeas Corpus denied---the Representatives of the people determined useless---inferior duties levied by act of Parliament---in short, precedents for the violation of every thing we hold most sacred in this country: I say, if Acts like these can *vindicate* resistance, the *Americans* can quote them, and GOD and THE WORLD must judge between us. For my own part, I consider, with LORD SOMERS, "that Treason against the *Constitution* is the *first species* of that crime." Acts of Parliament are sacred things, and yet they may be *so made*, grieving the face of mankind, that human nature will revolt at their severity. AUDLEY and EMPSOM were *hanged* for acting---according to Act of Parliament.

I have now stated the arguments which should induce you to pause at least before you take this irretrievable step. I shall examine next the consequences.

Suppose we should *succeed* in subduing the Americans, is it not clear from henceforward that we must govern them by *military force*?---Must not our army be increased in proportion?---Whilst his Majesty retains the power of moving his troops from one part of his dominions to another, can there be any safety for the Liberties of *this* country? If the mortification begins at the *extremities*, will it not soon communicate to the *center*? Every man acquainted with the history of nations must foresee the consequences. If we *fail* in the attempt, which is the happiest event that can occur, what difficulties may not disgust, irritations, and all the horrors of civil war, engender? While the justice and moderation of this country are blotted from the face of the earth, and the accumulated expence, when the springs of riches are cut off, must *shake public credit* to the very center.

The noble Lord has hinted, "if repealing the Tea Tax would do, he would yield that," and he *speaks* even *faintly* on the power of Taxation. If these are his principles, we are yet more inexcusable. We are going to punish men for *maintaining* what we are ready to *yield*, and to engage the nation in endless expence for the sake of a *quiddity*. Since whether renounced on the principles of expediency or right, the satisfaction must be equally complete to the Americans.

But the noble Lord alledges, "that yielding the point of Taxation would not now do." This is conjecture on his part: But at least it will produce this good effect,---we should divide the Americans: We should unite men in this country, and go to the contest with better hopes of success. The proofs the noble Lord gives for his opinion, are several *indiscreet* acts of different meetings since the late confusion in America. Such detail never affects me. I think no conclusions can be drawn from them. In all civil wars, when the people are let loose to reason on Government, a thousand absurd doctrines are broached. Let us apply this to our own country---Let us remember all the ridiculous circumstances which HUDIBRAS has painted better than I can. But should the *great cause of Liberty*, in which our ancestors were engaged, suffer from such circumstances? To their *feelings* we may appeal, on the *reasoning* of the multitude there is little dependence. For my own part, I think with CARDINAL DE RETZ, "that "any number above one hundred is at best but mere mob." [*Here the House felt the expressions as too strong.*] It never could be my intention to apply the rule to this House, long trained in form and discipline, though sometimes there are doctrines and proceedings even *here* that would surprise a stranger into this belief.

But the noble Lord says, "Why not petition first and afterwards *judge* the right, and then we will grant relief." Have they not petitioned? Is there a means of supplication and prostration they have not tried? I am convinced they went to the Crown merely as a mode of introducing their petition here. Now you deny hearing their Agents. An hon. Gentleman in Administration says, "he wished we had heard their petitions." Do not then condemn them for *not petitioning*, till you have declared your resolution to *hear them*. Can it be expected the Americans will act on the inuendos of a Minister? If you mean fair, why not declare your intentions by some binding act? After the East-India Company, who will trust you? You invited *them* to petition under hopes and declarations, and afterwards made use of this very petition, to deprive them both of their *money* and their *privileges*. In the ceded islands you have invited men to settle under the *Royal Proclamation*, and then levied 4 and a half per cent on their produce, which procedure has lately been condemned in the Courts of Law. In Canada you have been guilty of a greater violation, as liberty is dearer than property. Here you have despised the Royal Proclamation, and forfeited your engagements to mankind. I repeat it again, what man or society of men can trust you.

The next objection to the Americans, is the *Congress*. This is now termed an "*illegal meeting*." Government here, lay by with great expectation, waiting their resolves. If they had been favourable to their views, or had any untoward circumstances broke their union, we should have had much Eulogium on the Congress. Now they have come to resolves favourable to the liberties of mankind, all is *abuse*. I do not know by what law (except that of common sense) mankind can be regulated on these occasions. What kind of meeting can that be called which was held in this place at the *Revolution*; Aldermen and old members of Parliament mixing in consultation. The necessity on these occasions gives rise to the case. You wished to know the sense of the people of America: Was ever the judgment of a people so fairly taken? First the occasion is promulgated. The people chuse Representatives. These chuse Deputies. The Deputies in Congress publish their proceedings, each member returns to his respective colony, where his conduct is again approved---No *place*, *no pension*, *no bribe*, to influence his election, or bias his vote.---But even as to the legality, the manner of meeting is not new. Government itself called a *Congress* in the last war, to apportion the quotas of men and troops.

One gentleman has said, "that our situation is quite new, and "there is no example in history to direct our steps." I say there is a case similar, but we are too conceited to profit from such experience. *Philip the Second*, and his seventeen provinces, are the *counterpart* of what we are acting. The debates in his council on sending the *Duke of Alva* into the Netherlands, are applicable in every part. He was advised by two sensible men, to repair thither himself, and hear the complaints of his people, before he came to such rash resolves. But the majority said, as in this case, that his glory was compromitted.---It was not religion only, but *taxing without consent of their States*, that brought matters to the last extremity: the Duke of Alva, it is true, was victorious every where at first, but his cruelties were but sowing the serpents teeth. *The gueis*, the *beggars* of the brief, esteemed at that time infinitely more despicable than the New Englandmen are represented, gave the first shock to the power of Spain.---In comparing the probability of events, can any man say Great-Britain has such a prospect of victory in the contest as Spain might then have expected? Yet we know the event, and how that mighty empire was rent in pieces.---The present resolution carries us into that situation from which there is no retreating. It obliges the Americans immediately *to act*. By declaring them in *Rebellion*, they must have recourse to *arms*; all negociation is cut off.---I think the word *Rebellion* both impolitic and unjustifiable. I beg to know what paper on your table can vindicate that term? The first Law Officer of the Crown said, "A number of men "committing *Treason* was *Rebellion*."---I differ from him in the definition: According to my conception of the phrase, they must be in *Military Array*, to effect some military purpose. One Hundred men *coining money* are *not* in Rebellion, though committing treason. Insurrections to pull down inclosures is not rebellion, though deemed a constructive levying war. In the case of *purchase* and *demerce* for pulling down the meeting houses, they were convicted of *Treason*, but no one ever thought of saying the confederates or associates were in *Rebellion*. I think we should be very cautious how we criminate bodies of men on such intelligence. I dare say the noble Lord has been deceived himself. But this I affirm, *he has hitherto constantly deceived this house*. It appears to me that no intelligence from *General Gage* can be depended on. I beg the house will attend particularly to what I now say, before they engage their *lives* and *fortunes*. It appears *General Gage* has regularly *deceived* Administration. No event has turned out as he foretold, or gave reason to hope. The next letter constantly contradicts the expectations raised by the former. He seems never to have known what they were about, no doubt grossly imposed on himself, but facts are undeniable. When he first arrived, he writes, "the malcontents were abashed, and the friends of government would soon appear." Next, "his expectations from the Assembly were disappointed," and he dissolves them in surprise: then "there would be no Congress:" next, though there would be a Congress, they would differ and disagree;" in short, led on and leading others by vain expectations, till the very last letter which announces a total disaffection, and which I believe to be the true state of the provinces. (27)

Singling out the province of Massachusetts-Bay, can answer no purpose, but to expose our partiality. It is the *CAUSE* of ALL, and the other colonies can never be so mean as first to encourage and then desert them before the general right is settled. (20)

The noble Lord talks next of stopping their fisheries; but he says, "the Act is only to be temporary." Does the noble Lord think he can turn the channels of trade as easily as he can turn the majorities of this House? To explain the idea, supposing the New-England fisheries stop, their utensils must waste and destroy. But will the English Merchant madly increase his stock, and fit out new ships, if the *Act* is merely temporary? If it is perpetual the people in America are ruined. The consequence is, that the French must in the end reap the benefit of all this struggle. They

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(3) Constitution, Germany, Charles, pa. 790. 1050---petition of right pa. 806. Bill of rights pa. 1058, Vol. 2.

(5) See Index, under Admiralty Courts. (6) See index, under Army act Vol. 1.

(7) See repeal, pa. 411, Vol. 1

(8) See speech, pa. 483, Vol. 1.

(9) See speech, pa. 10. 2. (10) See Tea act, pa. 735. Vol. 1. (11) See Index, under Commissioners of customs, Vol. 2.

(12) See index Vol. 2. under petitions.

(13) See index Vol. 2, p. 9, under mercharts.

(14) See page 149. Vol. 2. (15) See tea act, pa. 499.

(16) See restraining act pa. 721.

(17) See act pa. 532.

(18) See Quebec act pa. 559.

(19) See murder act pa. 509.

(20) See indexes, under Towns, Counties, Representatives, Congress, Resolves, &c.---

(21) See index, under petitions, petitions of Towns, pa. 656.

(22) See Tea act, and eastern district ports.

(24) See index, under Towns, Counties, representatives, assemb. 41, Congress, Conventions, resolves, &c. (25) See Holland, pa. 799. (26) See index, under, engagements, and Army American, &c.

(27) See index, under page (28) See pa. 513. 517. 523. 591

729

See the address, pa. 710. See list of Grievances, pa. 971. See declaratory pa. 524. See American bill of rights, pa. 1227, 1228. Indexes under resolves---see under Congress Continental. (pa. 1225 (2)) See instructions, pa. 544 Set pa. 735. Vol. 1---on molat. pa. 9. Vol. 2. (13) See pa. 722. (14) See Charles, pa. 1077. Vol. 2. (23) pa. 579.

We are constantly stating the great obligation we have conferred on the Colonies by our former behaviour towards them; if it was ever so good, we can claim no merit from hence in private or public concerns, to do injury in future; they do not complain of your former behaviour, but they say, you have altered this very system from whence you would now derive their submission.

There are two arguments of the noble Lord which I must remark upon before I sit down; the first is, "the comparative view of "Taxation between this country and the Colonies, according to "the number of inhabitants." His Lordship says, "we pay about "twenty-five shillings a head, and they pay about six-pence." Who is there so unacquainted with political arithmetic as not to know that the small sum people pay in Taxation is often a proof of their poverty, and the large sum a proof of their prosperity, by demonstrating the richer from the greatness of the consumption? Let this kind of reasoning be applied to Ireland or Scotland, where we know the multitude to be poor in comparison to the inhabitants of London, whom we know to be rich; besides, if the Colonist does not pay in *palpable Cash* from his own hand, does not he pay all the *Taxes* on the four millions of *Manufactures* he receive, and part of those Taxes on the raw materials he sends hither.

The other argument is still more extraordinary. The noble Lord says, "if we fail in our attempt of forcing America, we shall "still be in the same situation we are in at present." What! after our armies have been disgraced, our fellow-subjects destroyed, all the irritation of a civil war, public confidence, and fair opinion lost! Does the noble Lord think he will be in the same situation *himself?*—I really speak it with regret, for *personally* I have much regard for the noble Lord, and particularly because I perceive, from his *faint* manner of stating his propositions, that they are not the dictates of his own mind, and that they are forced on him.

I cannot see my other memorandums, and therefore I shall conclude by *heartily concurring* with the noble Lord who moved for the recommitment of this Address.

CAMBRIDGE, May 12.

Copy of a Letter to his Excellency General GAGE, from the Hon. JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esq; Governor of his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut, in behalf of the General Assembly of said Colony.

SIR, Dated HARTFORD, April 28th, 1775.

THE alarming situation of public affairs in this country, and the late unfortunate transactions in the province of the Massachusetts Bay, have induced the General Assembly of this colony, now sitting in this place, to appoint a committee of their body to wait upon your Excellency, and to desire me, in their name, to write to you relative to these very interesting matters.

The inhabitants of this colony are intimately connected with the people of your province, and esteem themselves bound by the strongest ties of friendship, as well as of common interest, to regard with attention whatever concerns them. You will not therefore be surprised that your first arrival at Boston, with a body of his Majesty's troops, for the declared purpose of carrying into execution certain acts of parliament, which, in their apprehension, were unconstitutional and oppressive, should have given the good people of this colony a very just and general alarm; your subsequent proceedings in fortifying the town of Boston, and other military preparations greatly increased their apprehensions for the safety of their friends and brethren; they could not be unconcerned spectators of their sufferings in that which they esteemed the common cause of this country; but the late hostile and secret inroads of some of the troops under your command into the heart of the country, and the violences they have committed, have driven them almost into a state of desperation. They feel now not only for their friends, but for themselves, and their dearest interests & connections. We with not to exaggerate, we are not sure of every part of our information; but, by the best intelligence that we have yet been able to obtain, the late transaction was a most unprovoked attack upon the lives and property of his Majesty's subjects; and it is represented to us, that such outrages have been committed as would disgrace even barbarians, and much more Britons, so highly famed for humanity as well as bravery. It is feared therefore that we are devoted to destruction, and that you have it in command and intention, to ravage and desolate the country. If this is not the case, permit us to ask, why have these outrages been committed? Why is the town of Boston now shut up? And to what end are all the hostile preparations that are daily making, and why do we continually hear of fresh detachments of troops for this country? The people of this colony, you may rely upon it, abhor the idea of taking arms against the troops of their Sovereign, and dread nothing so much as the horrors of civil war; but at the same time we beg leave to assure your Excellency, that as they apprehend themselves justified by the principle of self defence, so they are most firmly resolved to defend their rights and privileges to the last extremity; nor will they be restrained from giving aid to their brethren, if any unjustifiable attack is made upon them. Be so good, therefore, as to explain yourself upon this most important subject, as far as is consistent with your duty to our common Sovereign.—Is there no way to prevent this unhappy dispute from coming to extremities? Is there no alternative but absolute submission for the desolations of war? By that humanity which constitutes so amiable a part of your character, for the honor of our Sovereign, and by the glory of the British empire, we intreat you to prevent it, if it be possible; surely it is to be hoped that the temperate wisdom of the empire might, even yet, find expedients to restore peace, that so all parts of the empire may enjoy their particular rights, honors, and immunities. Certainly this is an event most devoutly to be wished for; and will it not be consistent with your duty, to suspend the operations of war on your part, and enable us on our to quiet the minds of the people, at least, till the result of some further deliberations may be known. The importance of the occasion will, we doubt not, sufficiently apologize for the earnestness with which we address you, and any seeming impropriety which may attend it, as well as induce you to give us the most explicit and favourable answer in your power.

I am, with great esteem and respect,
in behalf of the General Assembly, Sir, &c.
(Signed) JON. TRUMBULL.

His Excellency Thomas Gage, Esq;

His Excellency General Gage's Answer to the foregoing Letter. Dated Boston, May 3d, 1775.

SIR,

I AM to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th of April last in behalf of the General Assembly of your colony, relative to the alarming situation of public affairs in this country, and the late transactions in this province. That this situation is greatly alarming, and that these transactions are truly unfortunate, are truths to be regretted by every friend to America, and by every well-wisher for the peace, prosperity and happiness of this province. The intimate connection and strong ties of friendship between the inhabitants of your colony, and the deluded people of this province, cannot fail of inducing the former, to interpose their good offices, to convince the latter of the impropriety of their past conduct, and to persuade them to return to their allegiance, and to seek redress of any supposed grievances, in those decent and constitutional methods in which alone they can hope to be successful.

That troops should be employed for the purpose of protecting the magistrates in the execution of their duty, when opposed with violence, is not a new thing in the English or any other government: That any acts of the British Parliament are unconstitutional or oppressive, I am not to suppose; if any such there are, in the apprehension of the people of this province, it had been happy for them if they had sought relief, only in the way which the constitution, their reason, and their interest pointed out.

You cannot wonder at my fortifying the town of Boston, or making any other military preparations, when you are assured, that previous to my taking these steps, such was the open threats, and such the warlike preparations throughout this province as rendered it my indispensable duty to take every precaution in my power, for the protection of his Majesty's troops under my command, against all hostile attempts. The intelligence you seem to have received, relative to the late excursion of a body of troops into the country, is altogether injurious and contrary to the true state of facts; the troops disclaim, with indignation, the barbarous outrages of which they are accused, so contrary to their known humanity. I have taken the greatest pains to discover if any were committed, and have found examples of their tenderness both to the young and the old, but no vestige of cruelty or barbarity. It is very possible that in firing into houses, from whence they were fired upon, that old people, women or children, may have suffered, but if any such thing has happened it was in their defence, and undesigned. I have no command to ravage and desolate the country, and were it my intention I have had presence to begin it, upon the sea ports, who are at the mercy of the fleet. For your better information, I inclose you a narrative of that affair, taken from gentlemen of indisputable honor and veracity, who were eye-witnesses of all the transactions of that day. The leaders here have taken pains to prevent any account of this affair getting abroad, but such as they have thought proper to publish themselves; and to that end the post has been stopped, the mails broke open, and letters taken out; and by these means the most injurious and inflammatory accounts have been spread throughout the continent, which has served to deceive and inflame the minds of the people.

When the resolves of the Provincial Congress breathed nothing but war, when those two great and essential prerogatives of the King, the levying of troops and disposing of the public monies, were wrested from him, and when magazines were forming by an assembly of men, unknown to the constitution, for the declared purpose of levying war against the King, you must acknowledge it was my duty, as it was the dictate of humanity to prevent, if possible, the calamities of civil war, by destroying such magazines.—This, and this alone, I attempted. You ask why is the town of Boston now shut up? I can only refer you, for an answer, to those bodies of armed men, who now surround the town, and prevent all access to it. The hostile preparations you mention, are such as the conduct of the people of this province has rendered it prudent to make, for the defence of those under my command.

You assure me the people of your colony abhor the idea of taking arms against the troops of their Sovereign, I with the people of this province, for their own sakes, could make the same declaration. You enquire, is there no way to prevent this unhappy dispute from coming to extremities? Is there no alternative, but absolute submission, or the desolations of war? I answer, I hope there is; the King and Parliament seem to hold our terms of reconciliation, consistent with the honor and interest of Great-Britain, and the rights and privileges of the colonies; they have mutually declared their readiness to attend to any real grievances of the colonies, and to assert them every just and reasonable indulgence, which shall, in a dutiful and constitutional manner, be laid before them; and his Majesty adds, it is his ardent wish that this disposition may have a happy effect, on the temper and conduct of his subjects in America: I must add likewise the resolution of the 27th February, on the grand dispute of taxation and revenue, leaving it to the colonies to tax themselves, under certain conditions. Here is surely a foundation for an accommodation, to people who with a reconciliation rather than a destructive war, between countries so nearly connected, by the ties of blood and interest; but I fear that the leaders of this province have been, and still are, intent only on shedding blood.

I am much obliged by your favourable sentiments of my personal character, and assure you, as it has been my constant wish and endeavour hitherto, so I shall continue to exert my utmost efforts, to protect all his Majesty's liege subjects under my care, in their persons and property. You ask, whether it will not be consistent with my duty to suspend the operations of war on my part? I have commenced no operations of war but defensive; such you cannot with me to suspend, while I am surrounded by an armed country, who have already begun, and threaten farther to prosecute an offensive war, and are now violently depriving me, the King's troops, and many others of the King's subjects, under my immediate protection, of all the conveniences and necessaries of life, with which the country abounds. But it must quiet the minds of all reasonable people, when I assure you, that I have no disposition to injure or molest quiet and peaceable subjects; but on the contrary, shall esteem it my greatest happiness to defend and protect them, against every species of violence and oppression.

I am, Sir, &c. THO. GAGE.

Hon. Governor Trumbull.

The following is an exact Copy of a Letter which was intercepted at Roxbury last Week.

Boston, 4th May, 1775.

Dear Sons

AFTER my effecnate Love to your Mother Sisters &c: Inform you that on ye 23th of april I Left the Ship took pasage on Board a packet sloop on ye 28 Instant in Health arrived here, Where I Expect to Stay till the Rebels are Subdued, which I Believe will not be long first as the Halps and troops are Daily Expected, my Greatest feers are you will be Seduced or Compeld to Take arms with those Deluded people. Dear sons if those Wicked Sinners the rebels Lattice you believe them not, but Die by the Sword Rither then be hanged. as Rebels, which will certainly be your fate Sooner or Later if you Joyn them or be Kild in battel and will be no more then you Decarve, I with you in Boston and all the friends to Government, the Rebels have proclaimed that those tenats may have Liberty and Cum in, but as all there Declaration have Rether too proved I fear falts this may be so, Let Ruggles Know his father wants him here, you may Cum by water from Newport; if here the King will Give you provisions & pay you Wages but by Expearance you Know your Persons nor Estates are not Safe in the Countrey for as Soon as you have Raised any thing they'l Rob you of it, as they are more Savage and cruell then Heathens or any other Craters & it is Generaly Thought then Devils, you will put yourselves out of ther power as Soon as posable. This is from your Effection at Father

Thos Gilbert

To Thomas Peres Bradford | Gilbert *vid. pa. 719.*

P. S. Paget, Green, and Jack are here, it will be well if these Lines Reach you as all my Letters are inter septed by those Rebels who want Every one to be Kept in Dark like them selves. (Misery Loves Compy.)

Directed to Major Thomas Gilbert, in Berkley.

The following Extracts from several intercepted Letters of the Soldiery in Boston, may serve to shew the Importance of the late Action, and the Pains taken by their Superiors to have it thought that the Provincials began the Fire, and behaved with savage Barbarity during the Action.

BOSTON, April 28, 1775.

"I AM well, all but a Wound I received through the Leg by a Ball from one of the Bostonians. At the Time I wrote you from Quebec, I had the strongest Assurance of going Home, but the laying the Tax on the New-England People caused us to be ordered for Boston, where we remained in Peace with the Inhabitants, till on the Night of the 18th of April, twenty-four Companies of Grenadiers and Light-Infantry were ordered into the Country about 18 Miles; where, between 4 and 5 o'Clock in the Morning, we met an incredible Number of People of the Country in Arms against us. *Col. Smyth of the 10th Regiment ordered us to push on them with our Bayonets fixed;* at which Time some of the Peasants fired on us, and our Men returning the Fire, the Engagement began; they did not fight us like a regular Army, only like Savages, behind Trees and Stone Walls, and out of the Woods and Houses, where in the latter we killed Numbers of them, as well as in the Woods and Fields. The Engagement began between 4 and 5 in the Morning, and lasted till 8 at Night. I can't be sure when you'll get another Letter from me, as this extensive Continent is all in Arms against us; These People are very numerous, and full as bad as the Indians for *scalping and cutting the dead Men's Ears and Noses off, and those they get alive, that are wounded and can't get off the Ground.*"

April 28, 1775.

"The Grenadiers and Light Infantry marched for Concord, where were Powder and Ball, Arms, and Cannon mounted on Carriages; but before we could destroy them all, we were fired on by the Country People, who are not brought up in our military Way as curselves, were surrounded always in the Woods; the Firing was very hot on both Sides; about 2 in the Afternoon the 20 Brigade came up, which was 4 Regiments and Part of the Artillery, which were of no Use to us, as the Enemy were in the Woods, and when we found they fired from Houses, we let them on Fire, and they ran to the Woods like Devils. We were obliged to retreat to Boston again, over Charles River, our Ammunition being all fired away. We had 150 wounded and killed, and some taken Prisoners; we were forced to leave some behind, who were wounded. We got back to Boston about 2 o'Clock next Morning, and them that were able to walk were forced to mount Guard and lie in the Field. I never broke any Fast for 48 Hours, for we carried no Provisions, and thought to be back next Morning. I had my Hat shot off my Head 3 Times, 2 Balls through my Coat, and carried away my Bayonet by my Side, and near being killed. The People of Boston are in great Trouble, for G. Gage will not let the Town's People go out. Direct for me to Chatham's Division of Marines."

"Dear Parents, *April 30, 1775.*

"Before this reaches you, you may hear that our Regiment has been engaged with the Provincials. The Grenadiers and Light Infantry marched about 9 at night. At 6 next Morning 42 Soldiers and 47 Marines, in all 1300, marched to reinforce the Grenadiers and Light Infantry; joined about 2 o'Clock, and found them not engaged, which they had been 3 Hours before; for we had 2 Pieces Cannon, which made us march very slow.—As soon as we came up we fired the Cannon, which brought them from behind the Trees, for we did not fight as you did in Germany, for we could not see above 20 in a Body, for they were behind Trees and Walls, and fired at us, and then loaded on their Bellies. We had but 36 Rounds, which obliged us to go Home that Night, and as we came along they got before us and fired at us out of the Houses and killed and wounded a great many of us, but we *knocked their Houses* as we came along. It was thought there were about 6000 at first, and at Night double that Number. The King's Troops lost in killed and wounded 250, and the American 500. Men, Women and Children, for there was *a Number of Women and Children burnt in their Houses.* Our Regiment has 5 killed and 32 wounded, particularly Col. Bernard, in the Thigh, which all the Regiment is sorry for. The Shot flew thick. I got a wounded Man's Gun, and killed two of them, so I am sure also. We have been busy in fortifying the Town ever since we came, and in a few Days we expect a good many more Troops from England, and then *we shall surely burn the whole Country before us, if they don't submit,* which I don't imagine they will do, for they are an obstinate Set of People. Tell Bill if he will come to Boston he may have a Wife in every House he comes to, for the Women are left at Home while the Men goes to fight the Soldiers; they have formed an Army and keeps Guard close to our Works, so that our Centries can talk together at Ease. Were engaged from 6 to 6. The whole Country is in Arms against us, and they are headed by two of the Generals that headed our Army last War; their Names are Black and Putnam. Have a great Deal of Shipping, but they are of little Service, only to cover the Town. Cannon and Troops, except the small Schooners that goes up in Creeks *and destroys them, which they have done many of them.* There is no Market in Boston, the Inhabitants all starving, the Soldiers live on salt Provisions, and the Officers are supplied by the *Men of War Cutters, who goes up the Creeks and takes live Cattle and Sheep, wherever they find them.* We beg the Americans very much, by cutting down their Liberty Poles and Alarm Posts. We have had a great many died in our Regiment last Winter, so that what with wounded Men and what has deserted, we have not 300 Men, and Duty is so hard that we come off Guard in the Morning and mount Pickets at Night."

"Honour'd Mother, *April 25, 1775*

"The Rebels, when ever came to Concord, burnt their Stores, fired upon the King's Troops, and a smart Engagement ensued. About two o'Clock our Brigade came up to them, where we engaged and continued fighting and retreating towards Boston. The Rebels were most numerous, and surrounded us on every Side, when they came up we gave them a smart Fire, but they never would engage us properly. We killed some Hundreds and burnt some of their Houses. I received a Wound in my Head. The Troops are in Boston, and surrounded by the Land Side by the Rebels, who are very numerous, and fully determined to lose their Lives and Fortunes, rather than be beat out of England. We had 34 killed and wounded. I suppose the King's Troops in all about 160. In Case they should take Boston the Troops will retire on board the Men of War, and then the Men of War will burn the Town and remain till more Troops come from England, and then conquer them. So their Estates and Lives will be forfeited. There is only 4000 Soldiers, and about 50 or 60,000 of them."

"Loving Brothers and Sisters, *May 2, 1775.*

"The 19th of April this Engagement happened, and my Husband was wounded and taken Prisoner, but they use him well, and I am striving to get to him, as he is very dangerous, but it is almost impossible to get out or in, or to get any Thing, for we are forced to live on salt Provisions entirely, and they are building Batteries round the Town, and so are we, for we are expecting them to storm us. And expecting more Troops every Day. My Husband is now lying in one of their Hospitals, at a Place called Cambridge, and there is now 40 or 50,000 of them gathered together. And we are not 4000 of us. It is very troublesome Times, for we are expecting the Town to be burnt down every Day, and I believe we are sold, and I have my Husband's Leg is broke, and my Heart is almost broke."

HARTFORD, May 8.

Last Saturday the General Assembly of this Colony ended the Session.—During the Session an Act was passed for immediately raising and paying 6000 Men, for the defence of the Colony, &c.

We hear that the Senecas, one of the Six Nations of Indians, are determined to support the Americans, against the arbitrary Exactions of the British parliament, and if desired, will lend their help in this day of trouble and distress, expecting if the Colonies are subjected, they shall also fall a sacrifice to the relentless fury of Great-Britain.

(5) see page 727. (6) see Index under Town Meeting, Assembly, Representatives, Congress, Provincial, resolves, raising of the County, &c. &c. (7) see Index under Men of War. (8) This is a false Account see deposition page, 737. & declarations of the Committees &c. (9) see resolves in Index under that head. (10) pa. 723. (11) see also pa. 714. (12) see address pa. 710. (13) see King's Answer pa. 706. (14) see pa. 727. (15) see Index under Congress Provincial. (16) No such General

(12) see list of english Grievances, pa. 692 Vol. 2. & pa. 540. 731 (13) See pa. 710. (14) see index, under Congress Provincial

WILLIAMSBURG, April 22.

This morning, between 3 and 4 o'clock, all the gunpowder in the magazine, to the amount, as we hear, of about 20 barrels, was stowed off in his Excellency the Governor's waggon, escorted by a detachment of marines from the armed Schooner Magdalen, now lying at Burwell's ferry, and lodged on board that vessel.

PHILADELPHIA, April 19.

On the 4th of April Governor Martin met the Assembly of North-Carolina, and addressed them in a high-flying, abusive, anti-American speech, in which he speaks hard things of all the Colonies, Congresses, Committees and People on this continent, (except those of his own stamp,) and begs of his Assembly not to approve of sending Delegates to the Congress in May.—To which the Assembly returned a truly noble answer, (both which we shall give the Public as soon as possible.)

Letters by the last Vessels from England, assure us, that if we remain steady and firm, and keep sacredly to the non-Importation, we have nothing to fear; that the non-Importation begins to work, and by Midsummer will be strongly felt on the other side the water, where nothing but feeling convinces.

The Governor of North-Carolina has forbid, by Proclamation, any Delegates from that Province attending the general Congress.

Copy of the Philadelphia Association.

WHEREAS it appears from authentic Accounts received from England, that it is the Design of the present Ministry, to enforce the late unjust and cruel Acts of Parliament complained of in the most legal and dutiful Manner by the CONGRESS; and, whereas an additional Number of Troops, with a Fleet, have been ordered for AMERICA, to assist the Troops now in BOSTON in the Execution of the said Acts: We, the Subscribers, agree, That we will ASSOCIATE for the Purpose of learning the Military Exercise, and for defending our PROPERTY and LIVES, against all Attempts to deprive us of them.

NEW-YORK, May 4.

We hear that the post, having been interrupted, the Post-Master (who has hitherto, without legal authority, been appointed from home, and as a conveniency, permitted here unquestioned) has discharged the riders, the expence of which he has no longer a fund to support. An office for this necessary business, will doubtless be put under proper regulations by the Continental Congress, and no more be permitted to return to the rapacious hands of unauthorized intruders.—Since it would be the most contemptible pusillanimity, to suffer a revenue to be raised from our property, to defray the expence of cutting our throats! We hear Mr. William Goddard, who has been a great sufferer, with many others, by the malpractices, of an illegal holder of this office, is now on a journey to the eastward, in order to put the business under proper regulations to be laid before the Congress. see index, under post office

Yesterday arrived the Brig Fair Lady, Captain James Robinson, in 35 days from Lisbon.—The day he sailed, a packet arrived there in 6 days from Falmouth, the Captain of which told him, that orders had been sent to Portsmouth, &c. to stop the sailing of all the Ships of War and Transports, destined for Boston, New-York, &c.

The whole city and province are subscribing an association, forming companies, learning the military exercise, and taking every method to defend our rights. The like spirit prevails in the province of New-Jersey, where a large and well disciplined militia are now fit for action. All the other Colonies, we hear, are equally well prepared.

The following Association was set on foot here last Saturday, and has been transmitted for signing, to all the counties in the province, and signed by most of the men of this city.

PERSUADED that the salvation of the rights and liberties of America, depend, under God, on the firm union of its inhabitants, in a vigorous prosecution of the measures necessary for its safety, and convinced of the necessity of preventing the anarchy and confusion which attend a dissolution of the powers of government;—WE, the Freemen, Freeholders and Inhabitants of the city and county of New-York, being greatly alarmed at the avowed design of the ministry to raise a revenue in America, and shocked by the bloody scene now acting in the Massachusetts-Bay; DO, in the most solemn manner, resolve never to become slaves; and do associate under all the ties of religion, honor, and love to our country, to adopt, and endeavour to carry into execution, whatever measures may be recommended by the Continental Congress, or resolved upon by our Provincial Convention, for the purpose of preserving our constitution, and opposing the execution of the several arbitrary and oppressive acts of the British Parliament, until a reconciliation between Great-Britain and America, on constitutional principles, (which we most ardently desire) can be obtained;—and that we will, in all things, follow the advice of our general committee respecting the purposes aforesaid, the preservation of peace and good order, and the safety of individuals, and private property.

Dated in New-York, April and May 1775.

The following letter came by the Earl of Dunmore, Capt. Lawrence, arrived from London.

London, January 30, 1775.

"From unquestionable authority I learn, that about a fortnight ago, dispatches were sent from hence by a sloop of war to General Gage, containing, among other things, a royal proclamation, declaring the inhabitants of Massachusetts-Bay, and some others in the different colonies, actual rebels, with a blank commission to try and execute such of them as he can get hold of;—with this is sent a list of names to be inserted in the commission as he may judge expedient; I do not know them all, but Messrs. Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Payne, and John Hancock, of Massachusetts-Bay;—John Dickinson, of Philadelphia; Peyton Randolph, of Virginia; and Henry Middleton, of South-Carolina, are particularly named, with many others.—This black list the General will, no doubt, keep to himself,—and unfold it gradually, as he finds it convenient."

Extract of a letter from London, February 10, 1775.

My dear Friend,

"I have waited in hopes I could find something to write to encourage you: But to my great grief, worse and worse; it is impossible to describe the alarming situation of our affairs. While the debate was in Parliament, I still had some small hopes; but this morning at 2 o'clock, the death warrant was passed, and the colonies declared rebels. The petitions and all attempts have failed. The great Lords Camden, Chatham, Richmond, and all the 32 Lords, could not prevent the fatal infatuation from taking place. An address to the King has past both houses, to give the King power to call you rebels, and to proceed against you on the late acts, and direct to put them in force against the Congress, and to support the Colonies, with their lives and fortunes. Nothing on earth can equal the consternation of all who have heard of it, and in their usual way now begin to see, when too late, the bad effects of their silence! The worthy Doctor Fothergill, Mr. Barclay, and Rachel Wilson, have written to the King; but no answer. Two worthy women of the Friends have desired to speak to the King; but he will not see them. Oh! that the Lord would turn their hearts! But now you are to be left to your own prudence; your own wisdom will tell you, no longer to depend on England to help you. I had twenty gentlemen this day called on me, and all say, pray write to your friends to declare those rebels who will not fight for their country; for there is gone down to Sheerness, seventy-eight thousand guns, and bayonets, to be sent to America, to put into the hands of the Roman Catholicks and the Canadians; and all the wicked means on earth used to subdue the Colonies. I don't write this to alarm you, but you must not any longer be deceived. Orders have now gone out to take up Hancock, Adams, Williams, Otis, and fix of the head men in Boston.—I have now a copy of the proceedings before me.—My heart akes for Mr. Hancock. Send off expresses immediately, that they intend to seize his estate, and have his fine house for General. They have ordered five commanding officers, Gen. Howe, Gen. Burgoine, Gen. Clinton, Gen. M'Kay, Gen. Drogheda, from Ireland, for the dragoons, or horse. A troop of light horse is now actually embarking, and will land before this comes to hand. You'll see by the news-papers, and I know it to be so;—I saw the Generals and know of sending 1500 chests of arms, part of which are for New-York, and to be distributed among such of the inhabitants who are willing to take up arms against you.—A proclamation is to be given out, that it is only the four governments of New-England: But depend upon it, all the colonies are to be treated in the same manner. General Burgoine says, that he will not let New-York know his intentions; but dance and sing with the ladies, and coax the inhabitants to submit, by giving money, and protection to those who will fight for the King, against the country.—Warn your people of their danger—Put your militia in order—Call the Delegates together, who will all be safe at Philadelphia.—Act wisely, and if possible, save old England. 32 Lords and Dukes, the richest and best men in the kingdom, are your friends, and of opinion that America must save England. (12)

Tell the printers immediately to advertise for young men to go to Boston, and bring Hancock and his brave men away, and if Gage refuses, seize him; such a step as this will alarm England, and it is what they all wish you would do, and expect it. I pray you mind what I say.—A bill of attainder is to be passed against them, the King is determined to make you submit;—the people are determined you shall not;—the people are determined to break the Bank, and it will break before the first of April, so only hold out and exercise your men, watch your enemies, and all will be done for you;—let no head man be taken;—take care of your Delegates;—encourage your Committee to do their duty;—it is hard for men to stand forward for their country, and then to be destroyed.—For shame!—let it never be said in the House of Lords, that New-York will stand neuter. The shameful letters have disgraced the city;—but as there are only a few rogues, you have not much from them.—Shame and cowardice will stop them, and fines of the cause make you act like men.—Arm your be ready at all times, for well I know, that it will preven d;—but if you sit tamely and silent, you will not only be cut off, but despised by all good men.—What a pleasure it is to see England roused!—What a different temper has this week produced!—Every day nothing is talked of but mobs;—they say, what I dare not write;—guess what alterations since Capt. Lawrence and Falconer sailed; indeed the people are not the same: Since yesterday morning thousands from the country are coming up, and letters sent down to get Birmingham to rise and come up to stop the address, but too late, and now you must trust to your own prudence and the God of your salvation to save you—with most tender love to all, and more particularly to those who are near and dear to you, remember me with affection.—Great pains is taken to find out who writes to America, and informs them of the proceedings of the Court. With the greatest confidence, I am your old faithful friend."

NEW-LONDON, May 5.

Our last Accounts from New-York are, That the Inhabitants are arming and fortifying themselves in the best Manner they can, and that the Tories desert daily.——We are likewise assured that they have begun an Intrenchment at King's Bridge.

The Custom-Houses at Philadelphia and New-York, are shut up by order of the Inhabitants.

To be SOLD Cheap,

A Very genteel House, with Out-Houses, a good Barn, and a Quantity of Land adjoining, lying in Newmarket, in the Province of New-Hampshire, very convenient for a Merchant or Trader. Inquire of DANIEL SCOTT, Apothecary in Boston, JOSEPH HOYT, Esq; of Stratham, or JOSEPH JACKSON, at Danvers New-Mills.

(6)

CAMBRIDGE, May 12.

The General Assembly of Connecticut have resolved, "That an Embargo be laid upon the Exportation out of that Colony, by Water, of Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, Pork, Beef, live Cattle, Peas, Beans, Bread, Flour, and every Kind of Meal; to continue to the 20th Day of May InStant. Governor Trumbull has issued a Proclamation, notifying the same, and requiring a Compliance therewith.

At the General Election of the Governor and Company of the Colony of Rhode-Island, held at Providence, last Wednesday se'nnight, the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq; was chosen Governor; the Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Esq; Deputy-Governor; Henry Ward, Esq; Secretary; Henry Marchant, Esq; Attorney-General; and Joseph Clarke, Esq; General Treasurer.

As the present Provincial Congress will soon be dissolved, the Inhabitants of this Colony have been notified to choose Delegates to meet in Congress at Watertown, on the 31st Instant.

We hear that a certain respectable Assembly hath declared General Gage to be an inveterate Enemy to this Country; that his Writs (lately issued) for calling a General Assembly, are to be disregarded; and that no Obedience ought to be paid to him as Governor of this Colony. see Index, under Gage.

A Spanish Ship of 300 tons, bound from the Havanna to Cadiz, having lost her Rudder and all her Masts, was met with in great Distress, on the Grand Bank, by two Marblehead fishing Schooners, who took up her Men, together with a Quantity of Snuff, Tobacco, &c. and 23000 Dollars in Cash; all which were brought safe into Marblehead on Saturday last, but soon after taken Possession of by the Lively Man of War. (3)

The General Assembly of Rhode-Island have voted to raise 1500 Men.

A melancholy Accident happened here last Monday. One of the Soldiers belonging to the Colony Army, while performing (in a Room) Part of the manual Exercise, accidentally discharged his Piece, not before knowing it was loaded; by which another Soldier, named Phelps, belonging to Berkshire County, was shot through the Body, and died on Wednesday.

We hear that 4000 Troops will be raised in Pennsylvania, for the Preservation of American Liberty. The Southern Colonies, as far as we have heard, are arming: They greatly applaud our Conduct in defeating the ministerial Troops. The People of New-York have removed 40 Pieces of Cannon to King's-Bridge, in order to fortify that important Pass.

A small Number of Troops, as a Reinforcement to General Gage, arrived at Boston a few Days since, from Halifax.

Our Army is in high Spirits; they are intrenching a small Distance from this Town.

General Gage has fortified every considerable Eminence in Boston. We are obliged to omit several Articles for want of Time & Room. Mr. Henderson Inches, of Boston, is removed to Lincoln.

Printing-Office, Cambridge, May 12, 1775.

AT the Desire of many respectable Gentlemen, Members of the Honourable Provincial Congress, and others, we have removed our Printing-Office from Salem to this Place; where we shall exert our best Endeavours in continuing to conduct the Business in general, and this Paper in particular, in such a Manner as will best promote the public Good, especially at this important Crisis---when the *Property*, the LIVES, and (what is infinitely more valuable) the LIBERTY, of the good People of this Country, are in Danger of being torn from them by the cruel Hands of arbitrary Power. (8)

We return our most sincere Thanks to those Gentlemen who favoured us with their Custom, and otherwise encouraged us, while we carried on our Business at Salem. We request a Continuance of their Favours, and beg Leave to assure them that we consider ourselves under great Obligations to serve them, in future, with the utmost Fidelity and Faithfulness. S. & E. HALL.

*** The Price of this Paper is Six Shillings and Eight Pence per Annum: Three Shillings and Four Pence to be paid at subscribing, and the Remainder at the End of the Year.

LOST out of a House in Cambridge, between the 19th and 26th ult. a Woman's gold WATCH, with two miniature Pictures among its other Appendages; also a Mourning Ring. Whoever will give Intelligence of either, to the Printers hereof, so that the same may be recovered, shall be handsomely rewarded.

To be SOLD on reasonable Terms,

A Good convenient Dwelling House, with a Garden Spot and small Barn, situate in Portsmouth, near Dr. Haven's Meeting-House.

Also a good Dwelling-House, Barn, Wharf, and Ware-House, with about Half an Acre of Land, situate in New-Market, on Exeter River, suitable for Trade and Navigation. For further Particulars, inquire of Mr. DANIEL FOWLE, Printer in Portsmouth, or JOSEPH DOE, in Newmarket.

ALL Persons that have any Demands on the Estate of Rev. JOHN CHIPMAN, deceased, are requested to bring them in, in order for a Settlement, to BENJAMIN JONES, Esq; of Beverly, or JOSEPH CHIPMAN of Salem, Executors to the last Will and Testament of said deceased, and those that are indebted to said Estate are requested to make Payment to said Executors.

N. B. A few Cows and a Horse to be sold. Inquire of said Executors. *Beverly, May 6, 1775.*

A Moses Boat, 13 Feet long, went adrift about a Month ago from Beverly. Two Dollars Reward will be paid by DAVID BRITTON of Salem, or JOSIAH BATCHELDER of Beverly, for finding her.

ALL Persons who have any Demands on the Estate of Mr. BENJAMIN PEIRCE, late of Salem, Baker, deceased, are desired to bring in their Accounts for Settlement; and all those indebted to said Estate, are requested to make Payment to JERATHMEEL PEIRCE, Attorney to the Administratrix.

This Paper, in future, will be published every Thursday.

(4) See address to the King, pa. 710. Vol. 1 (5) See Declaratory Act pa. 524 & pa. 723, Index, under Army &c. (6) see magna Charta pa. 790—to 80. (7) all members of the Congress see A. (8) see list of Grievances pa. 692 (9) The moderator of the Tea, meeting pa. 407 &c. (10) See Index, under Otis. (11) see index under Hon. & Burgoyne (12) see index under Towns, County, Assembly, representatives, Congress, Continental, & Provincial, resolves, doing of the Country, &c. (13) see index under Congresses, & Committees, & see index, under Congress Continental

In PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,

WATERTOWN, May 1, 1775.

WHEREAS the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston have been detained by General *Gage*, but at Length (by Agreement) are permitted to remove with their Effects into the Country; and as it has been represented to this Congress, that about five thousand of said Inhabitants are indigent and unable to be at the Expence of removing themselves:

Therefore RESOLVED, and it is hereby recommended to all the good People of this Colony, and especially to the Select-Men and Committees of Correspondence most convenient to Boston, that they aid and assist such poor Inhabitants of said Town (with Teams, Waggons, &c.) as shall procure a Certificate from the Committee of Donations, that they are unable to remove themselves. ---And it is further recommended to the Select-Men of the several Towns specified in the Schedule annexed, to provide for said Inhabitants in the best and most prudent Way and Manner, until this or some future Congress shall take further Order thereon; and that the said Select-Men receive, support and employ their Proportion of said Inhabitants assigned them in said Schedule, and no other; and render their Accounts to this or some future Congress, or House of Representatives for Allowance, which reasonable Accounts shall be paid out of the publick Treasury: And it is further recommended to the Committee of Donations to apply said Donations for the Removal of said Inhabitants, and for their Support whilst removing. And in case that is insufficient, it is further recommended to said Committee of Donations, that they make up said Deficiency, and lay their Accounts before the Congress for Allowance; which reasonable Expence shall be paid out of the publick Treasury of the Colony:

And it is further RESOLVED, That the Inhabitants of Boston thus removed, shall not in future be considered as the Poor of said Town into which they remove; and it is to be understood, that if the Number of the Poor who shall be removed in Consequence hereof, should surpass or fall short of the Number herein calculated, the Distribution of them shall be encreased or diminished in Proportion according to this Regulation.

A true Extract from the Minutes.

SAMUEL FREEMAN, Sec'y. P. T.

County of SUFFOLK.

Wrentham,	89	Persons
Stoughtonham,	32	
Medway,	38	
Bellingham,	25	
Walpole,	31	
	215	

MIDDLESEX.

Concord	66	
Marlborough	80	
Billerica	54	
Framingham	63	
Chelmsford	49	
Sherburne	31	
Sudbury	85	
	428	
Weston	41	
Westford	45	
Littleton	41	
Hopkinton	42	
Stow	36	
Groton	61	
Pepperrell	34	
Townsend	26	
Natick	20	
	346	
Dracut	35	
Bedford	29	
Hollifton	34	
Tewksbury	28	
Acton	32	
Dunstable	30	
Lincoln	29	
Wilmington	25	
	242	

PLYMOUTH County.

Bridgwater	81	
Abington	22	
Halifax	12	
	115	

BRISTOL County.

Taunton	103	
Rehoboth	129	
Dartmouth	113	
Norton	47	
Mansfield	30	
Attleborough	75	
Raynham	31	
Easton	35	
Berkley	25	
	588	

BERKSHIRE.

Sheffield	54	
Great-Barrington	24	
Stockbridge	25	
Pittsfield	31	
New-Marlborough	30	
Egremont	13	
Richmond	23	
Lenox	16	
Tyringham	13	
Lanesborough	32	
Sandisfield	23	
Williamstown	20	
East-Hoosick	10	
	314	

HAMPSHIRE.

Springfield	68	
Wilbraham	31	
Northampton	70	
Southampton	25	
Hadley	39	
South-Hadley	23	
Amherst	34	
Granby	17	
Hatfield	35	
Whately	13	
Williamsburg	9	
	355	
Westfield	52	
Deerfield	36	
Greenfield	24	
Shelburne	14	
Conway	17	
Sunderland	19	
Montague	18	
Northfield	26	
Brimfield	44	
South-Brimfield	26	
	274	
Monson	23	
Pelham	25	
Greenwich	24	
Blandford	19	
Leverett	4	
Palmer	25	
Granville	44	
New-Salem	22	
Belcherstown	28	
Colerain	17	
Ware	13	
	244	
Warwick	10	
Bernardston	14	
Murrayfield	17	
Charlemont	12	
Worthington	6	
Shutesbury	14	
Chesterfield	22	
Southwick	19	
West-Springfield	72	
Ludlow	10	
	196	

WORCESTER.

Worcester	82	
Lancaster	103	
Mendon	76	
Brookfield	99	
Oxford	35	
Charleton	35	
Sutton	98	
Leicester	36	
Spencer	31	
Paxton	8	
Rutland	8	
Oakham	14	
Hutchinson	42	
	719	
Hubbardston	9	
New-Braintree	32	
Southborough	36	
Westborough	38	
Northborough	25	
Shrewsbury	32	
Lunenburgh	51	
Fitchburgh	19	
Uxbridge	36	
Harvard	50	
Dudley	32	
Bolton	48	
Upton	20	
Sturbridge	45	
Leominster	38	
Hardwick	55	
Holden	26	
Western	35	
Douglass	22	
Grafton	38	
Petersham	38	
Royalston	8	
	731	
Westminster	31	
Athol	20	
Templeton	25	
Princeton	24	
Ashburnham	12	
Winchendon	9	
Northbridge	13	
	185	

Whole Amount, 4903

Cambridge, April 26, 1775. In Committee of Safety.

DOCTOR Nathaniel Bond, of Marblehead, having been charged before this Committee with having acted an unfriendly Part to this Colony; said Committee appointed Joseph Warren, Esq; Col. Thomas Gardner, and Lieut. Col. Joseph Palmer, as a Court of Enquiry to examine Witnesses in the Case, and hear and determine the same: And upon full Enquiry into the Case, they are clearly of Opinion, that said Bond's general Behaviour, has been friendly to American Liberty; and though he may have discovered an imprudent Degree of Warmth in some Instances, yet we do not find any Proof of an inimical Temper or Disposition to this Country, and therefore recommend him to the Esteem and Friendship of his Country, that (as the Error which occasioned his being brought before this Committee, appears to have been altogether involuntary, and was such as several of our most firm Friends were led into by false Rumours spread of the Transactions of the 19th Instant) no Impressions to the Doctor's Disadvantage may remain on the Minds of any Person whatever.

JOSEPH WARREN, Chairman.

LOST out of a Waggon in Westborough, two Packs and a great Coat, also a Cartridge-Box and Powder Horn. The Packs contained two white Shirts, 3 check Shirts, a Pair of Stockings, some Provision, &c. &c. Whoever shall take up the above, and send them to Capt. Stedman's of Cambridge, shall be handsomely rewarded.

April 24, 1775. SAMUEL POMEROY.

N. B. It is very likely the Packs was by Mistake put into a wrong Waggon.

Just IMPORTED, and to be SOLD by

RICHARD DERBY, jun.

EXcellent Jamaica SUGAR by the Hogshead or Barrel; Jamaica and common RUM, and a small Parcel of dried HIDES.

STRAYED or stolen from a Tavern in Medford, on Wednesday, 19th Instant, a black HORSE, with a Bridle and Saddle, about 14 Hands high, his Neck something short and Main thick, and poor withal. Whoever shall help the Subscriber to him again shall be well rewarded, and all necessary Charges paid by DAVID FELT.

Salem, May 1st, 1775.

THIS may certify, That about two Years ago Mr. JOHN PIEMONT came to dwell in the Town of Danvers, and was well recommended by the Selectmen of the Town of Boston; and though some Persons have called him a Tory, to his great Damage, yet we, as a Committee of Inspection for the Town of Danvers, have carefully examined into Mr. Piemont's Character, and are fully satisfied that he is a Friend to us in the common Cause of our Country, and we hope all our Friends will treat him as such, and call upon him for Entertainment, as he keeps a large public House in said Danvers.

S. HOLTEN,
ISRAEL HUTCHINSON,
AMOS PUTNAM,
WM. SHILLABER,
BENJ. PROCTER,
JONA. PROCTER,
WM. PUTNAM,
} Committee of Inspection for said Danvers.

Danvers, April 22d, 1775.

GARDEN-SEEDS.

JUST IMPORTED, in the Venus, from London, And to be SOLD by

W. P. BARTLETT,

At his Shop in Queer-Street, SALEM,

A fresh Assortment of GARDEN SEEDS, VIZ.

EArly golden Hotspur Peas	Cole Lettice
Early charlton ditto	Marble ditto
Ormonds ditto	Round spinnage
Large Marrowfats	Prickley ditto
Dwarf ditto	Red Beet
Spanish Moratters	Green ditto
Black eyed Sugar Peas	White ditto
Crooked Sugar ditto	Upright Cellery
Ramshorns ditto	Solid ditto
White Rounsivals	White Mustard
Blue Union Peas	Double Parsley
Early Lisbon Beans	Single ditto
Large windsor ditto	Asparagus
Early white kidney ditto	Early Colliflower
Early yellow bush ditto	Early battersea Cabbage
Speckled ditto	Early low Dutch ditto
White Spanish Onion	Early Yorkshire ditto
Red Portugal ditto	Early sugar-loaf ditto
Yellow Spanish ditto	Large winter red Cabbage
Lemmon Carrot	Green and yellow curl'd Savoy
Orange ditto	Early prickley Cucumber
Purple ditto	Long green ditto
Best swelling Parsnip	Long Roman ditto
Early Dutch Turnip	Water Mellon Musk Mellon
Long French ditto	Double pot Marygold
Turnip Radish	Sweet Marjoram
Scarlet ditto	Summer Savory
Crimson ditto	Winter ditto
Black Spanish ditto	Thyme
True cannonball Lettice	Mace, Hemp and Canary Seed
Head Lettice	Fowl Meadow
	Herd's Grass and Clover,

◊ See index under Congress Provincial. † See pa. 727. ∨ See pa. 746. × See Committee, pa. 582.) See index under donations. & The Battle, see pa. 723.